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Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 /055 W
----------020023Z 028175 /64
R 010450Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY SUVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6176
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, FJ
SUBJECT: ALLIANCE LOSES CONFIDENCE VOTE

REF: SUVA 0633

1. ON ADVICE OF PRIMEMIN RATU MARA, GOVERNOR GENERAL DISSOLVED PARLIAMENT TODAY TO MAKE WAY FOR NEW ELECTIONS FOLLOWING ALLIANCE GOVERNMENT'S LOSS OF CONFIDENCE VOTE 23-26 YESTERDAY. SOLE INDEPENDENT MEMBER OF 52-MEMBER HOUSE ABSTAINED, 1 MEMBER OF INDIAN OPPOSITION NATIONAL FEDERATION PARTY (NFP) ABORAD, AND RACIST BUTADROKA OF FIJI NATIONALIST PARTY (FNP) VOTED WITH NFP.

2. RATU MARA WILL HEAD CARETAKER GOVERNMENT UNTIL GENERAL ELECTIONS HELD, PERHAPS IN AUGUST OR SEPTEMBER.

3. NFP MODERATUES PROBABLY REFLECTED REAL WISHES OF INDIAN MAJORITY IN PRESSING HARD DURING FINAL DAY OF DEBATE FOR JOINT

RULE WITH ALLIANCE, BUR KRATU MARA MADE CLEAR IN SUPPORTING
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CONFIDENCE MEASURE THAT HE WANTED NO PART OF COALITION WITH PARTY LED BY SIDDIQ KOYA, ABRAISVE OPPOSITION CHIEF WHO ANATHEMA TO PRIMEMIN.

4. INSTEAD OF RECOMMENDING DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT, PRIMEMIN COULD HAVE RESIGNED AND ADVISED GOVGEN TO APPOINT LEADER OF OPPOSITION, KOYA, AS PRCOEMIN. RATU MARA'S DISLIKE OF KOYA

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WOULD NOT PERMIT THIS, NOR IS THE ALLIANCE IN ANY MOOD TO HAND
OVER GOVT. TO NFP ON PLATTER WITHOUT ELECTIONS.

5. AT EARLIER STAGE OF CONFIDENCE DEBATE, ALLIANCE AND MANY IN
OPPOSITION CALCULATED THAT WITH TWO NFP MEMBERS ALREADY ABROAD
AND PREDICTED ABSENCE OF OTHERS, PROBABLE SUPPORT OF LONE
INDEPENDENT, GOVT.WOULD SQUEAK THROUGH. TIE WOULD HAVE BEEN
BROKEN IN ALLIANCE FAVOR BY HOUSE SPEAKER. PROSPECTS COLLAPSED
WHEN A NFP MEMBER RETURNED FROM AUSTRALIA, NO ADDITIONAL NFP
MEMBERS ABSENTED THEMSELVES, AND INDEPENDENT EDGED TOWARD ABSTENTION.

6. COMMENT: PUBLIC SPECTACLE OF INDIAN OPPOSITION SQUABBLING,
WHICH INCLUDED ROUGHING UP OF NFP SECGEN AND THREATS TO PARTY
PRESIDENT, FINALLY BECAME TOO MUCH FOR PROUD INDIANS, ENABLING
KOYA TO UNIFY PARTY AT LEAST FOR CONFIDENCE VOTE. ALLIANCE DID
NOT HELP OWN CASE BY CONSTANTLY GOADING NFP WITH REFERENCES TO ITS
DISARRAY AND APPREHENSION (TRUE) AT PROSPECT OF GOVERNING.
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